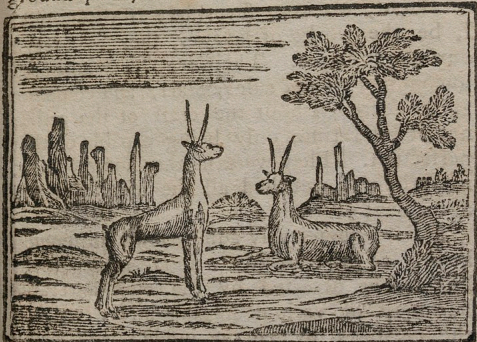


with a curious graft: It bore also abundance of fine lofty trees. Having walked some time, admiring the greatness of Nature's works, at some distance we perceived three things standing together, which I took to be houses; I believe, said I, this island is inhabited; for, if I mistake not, yonder are dwelling places. So they are, said *Alvarado*; and therefore I don't think it wisdom to venture any farther, lest they should be savages, and do us hurt; so would have gone back: But I was resolved to see what they were, and persuaded him to go on; saying, it would be time enough to retreat when we perceived danger, and if any people should come upon us, we must see them at some distance; and if we cannot avoid them, here are three of us, a good long staff, with an iron point at one end, and a hook at the other, I shall exercise that, and keep them off, at least till you get away: Come along, and fear not.

Being come near enough to discern better, we saw that, what we took for houses, were rather arbours, being apparently made of green trees: Then, indeed, I began to fancy some wild people inhabited them, and doubted whether it were safe to go nearer; but concealed my doubt, lest I should intimidate *Alvarado* so that he should run away, to which

he seemed much inclined. I only slackened my pace, which *Alvarado* perceiving, imagined that I saw some evil coming which he thought unavoidable; and not daring to go from his company, he only condoled his misfortune; saying, he dearly repented taking my advice.

By this time we were come near a spot of ground pretty clear of trees, on which some



animals were feeding, these I took to be goats; but *Alvarado* fancied them to be deer, however, I thought by their shyness, we were out in our judgment concerning the arbours; for, I said, if they were inhabited, those creatures would not have been so scared at the sight of men;